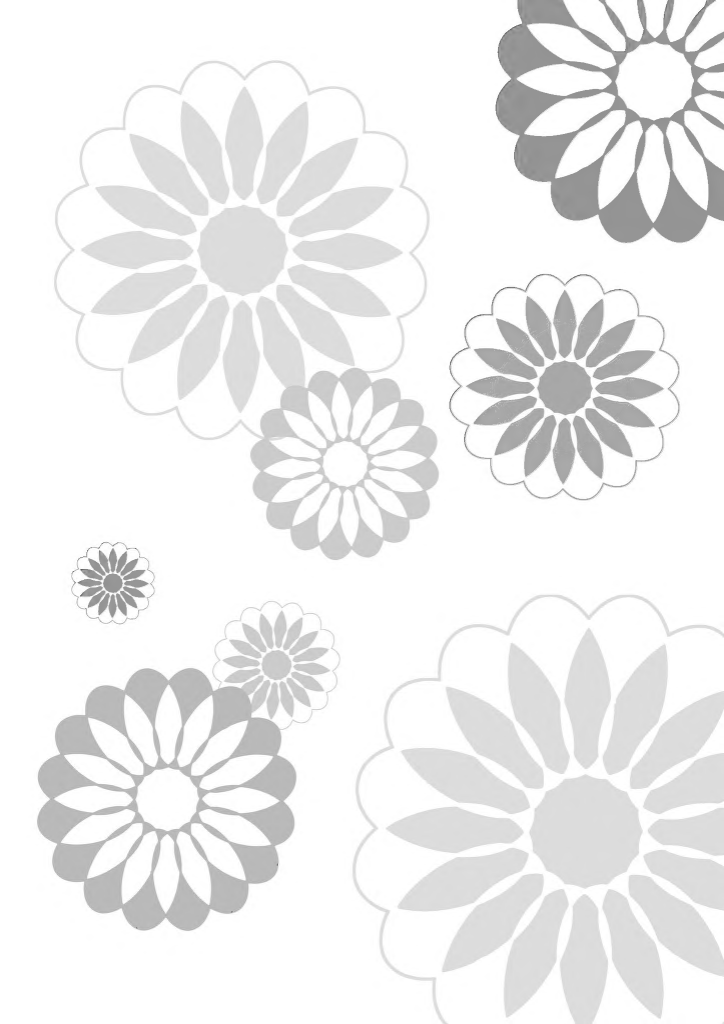
43
ああっ女神さまっ
藤島康介
KOSUKE FUJISHIMA
Oh My Goddess!



Oh My Goddess! 43

ああっ女神さまっ

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WITH Tom2K

DARK HORSE MANGA™

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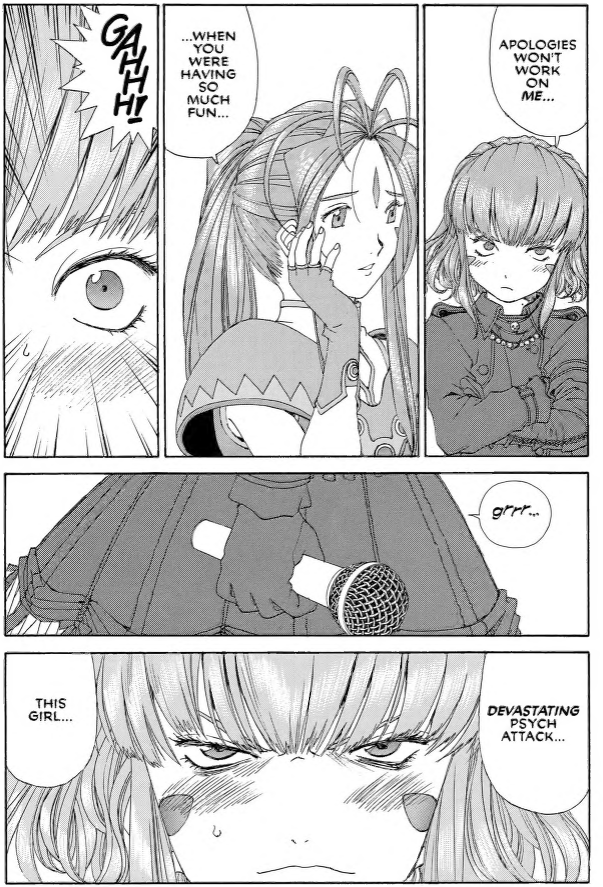
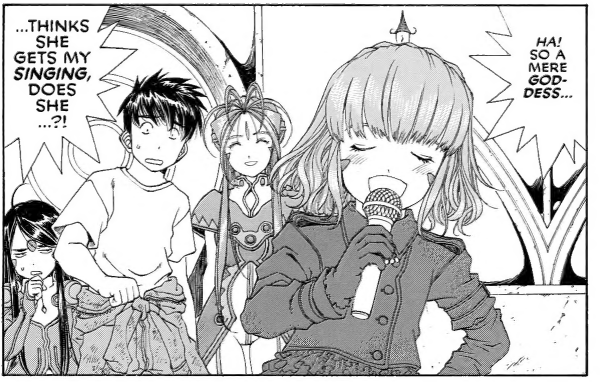
CHAPTER 269

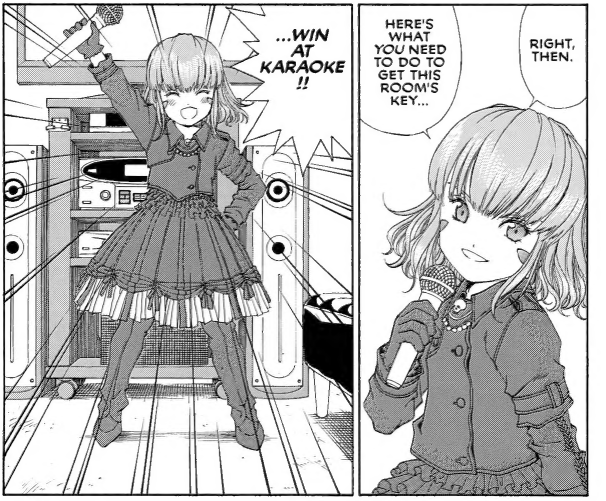
First to Win Gets to Move On!

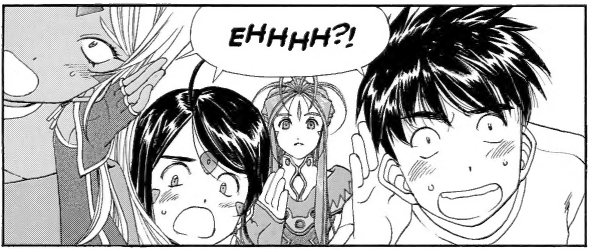
...DID YOU BARGE IN LIKE THAT?!
WHY...
I'M SORRY WE ENTERED SO ABRUPTLY...
UM...
EH?


APOLOGIES WON'T WORK ON *ME*...
...WHEN YOU WERE HAVING SO MUCH FUN...
GAHH!
grrr...
DEVASTATING PSYCH ATTACK...
THIS GIRL...

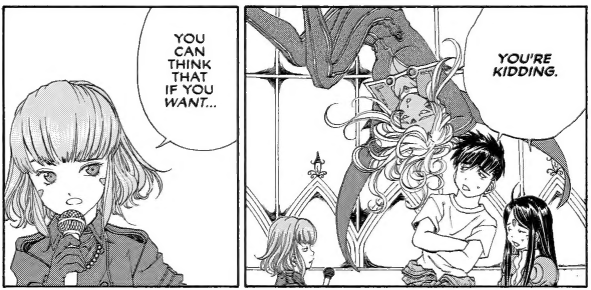
...I'D BETTER JUST KILL HER.
BUT, I MUSTN'T KILL HER YET...
BUT I WANNA... BUT I MUSTN'T... BUT I WANNA...
UM... PAR-DON?
YOUR THOUGHTS ARE LEAKING...
YOUR SINGING... IT'S WONDER-FUL!!
...
SWISH SWISH
YOU THINK SO?


...THINKS SHE GETS MY *SINGING*, DOES SHE ...?!
HA! SO A MERE *GOD-DESS*...


...*WIN AT KARAOKE !!*
HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO GET THIS ROOM'S KEY...
RIGHT, THEN.


EHHHH?!

DON'T HEAR SO GOOD, HUH...?
GET THE HIGH SCORE, I GIVE YOU THE KEY. GOT IT?


YOU'RE KIDDING.
YOU CAN THINK THAT IF YOU WANT...

IF I'M TELLING THE *TRUTH*, YOU CAN GET IT RISK FREE.
OH, AM I *IRRITATING* YOU...?
grrr
...BUT THEN YOU'RE *NEVER* GOING TO GET THE KEY.
...YOU COWARDLY, GUTLESS *CHICKENS* ...?!
SO EVEN IF I'M *LYING*, WHY NOT GIVE IT A CHANCE...

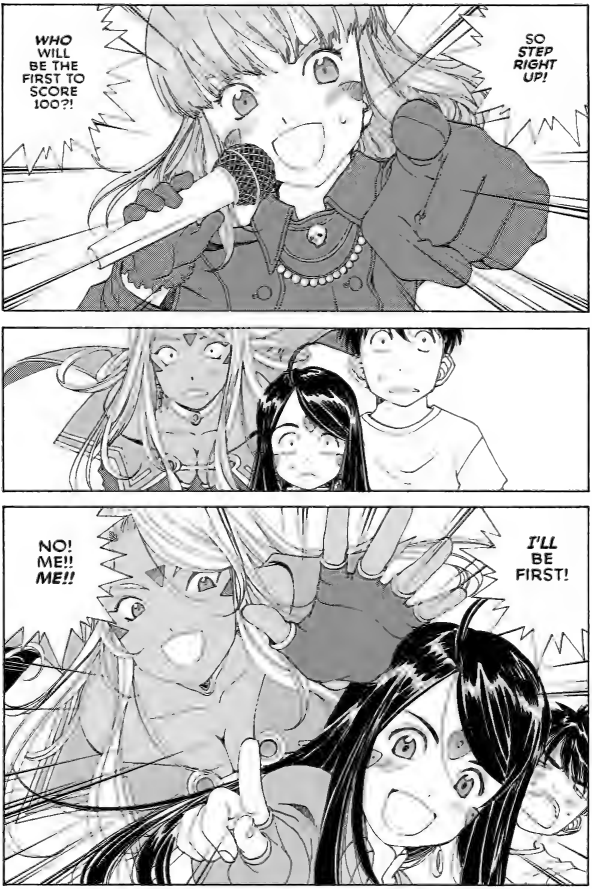
IF WE DON'T SING, THEN WHO WILL?
WHAT?
LET'S SING.
...WE SING TO WEAVE TIME.
WE SING TO SPIN THE WORLD...
IMPOS-SIBLE.
US, LOSE AT SINGING ...?

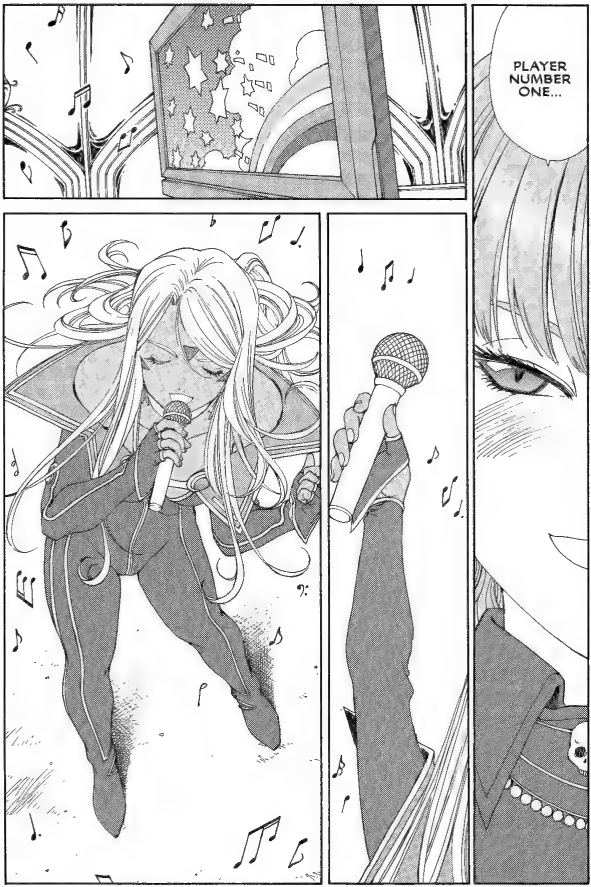
SHE'S RIGHT!!
OKAY! YOU'RE ON, SHORT STUFF.
GLAD TO HEAR IT.
RULES COULDN'T BE SIMPLER...

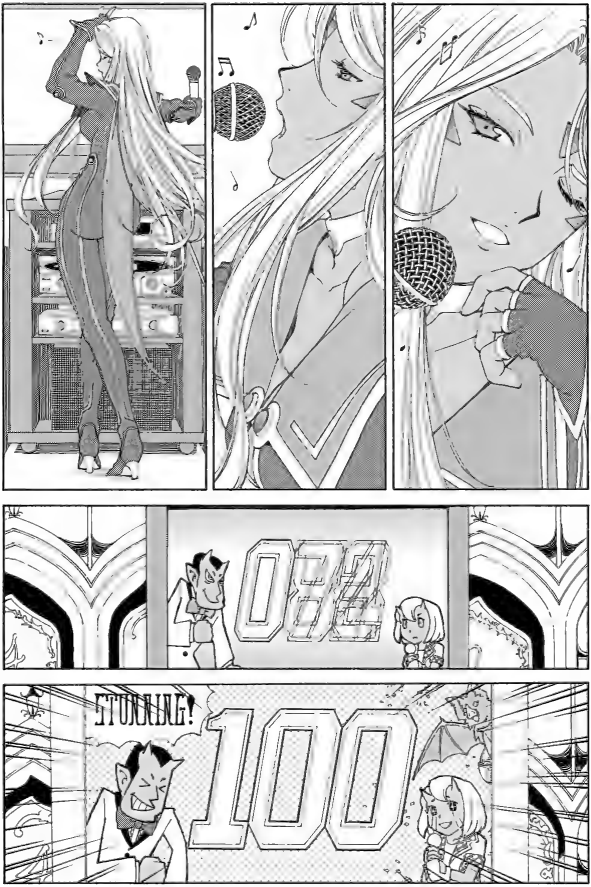
...GETS TO GO THROUGH THE DOOR!!
WHOEVER ACHIEVES *100 POINTS*...
WATCH *THIS*.
SURE.
REALLY?
OH, YES IT DOES.
LET ME GUESS-- IT DOESN'T GO THAT HIGH.

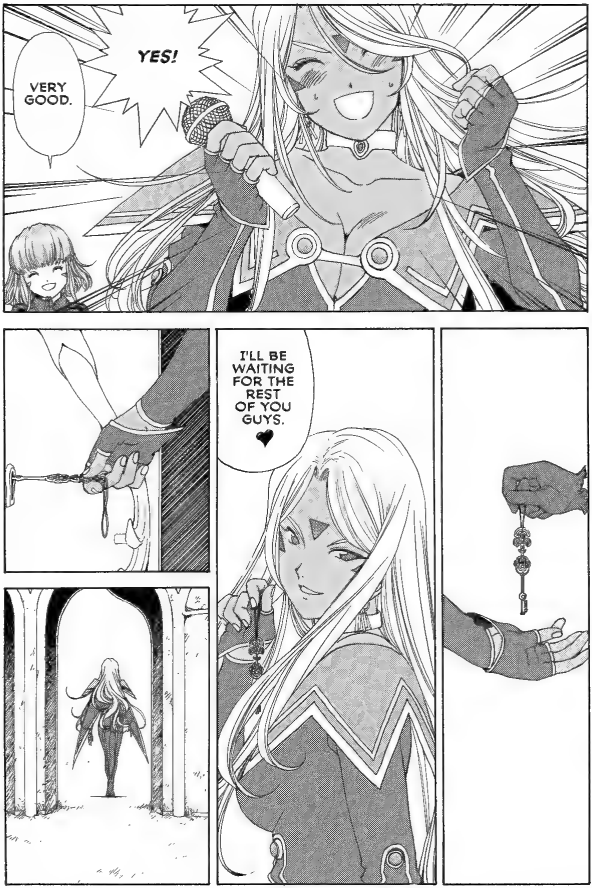
Ja Ja...

...I FORGET MYSELF WHEN I'M SINGING...
UM...
OOOOH!
THERE'S FOUR DOORS... ONE KEY PER DOOR!
...ANYWAY !!
THE SOONER YOU WIN, THE SOONER YOU CAN GO!

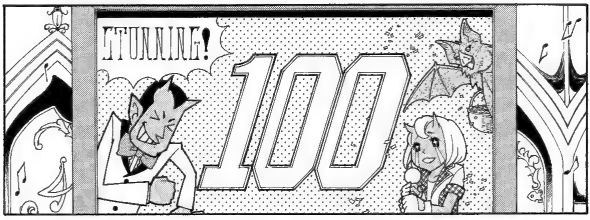

WHO WILL BE THE FIRST TO SCORE 100?!
SO STEP RIGHT UP!
NO! ME!! ME!!
I'LL BE FIRST!

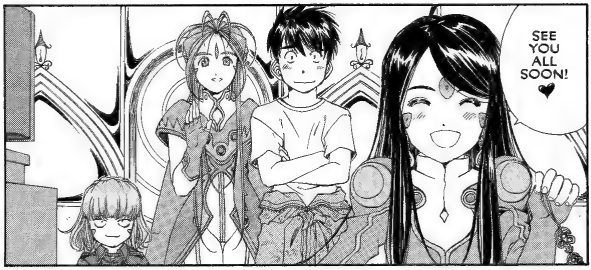

PLAYER NUMBER ONE...

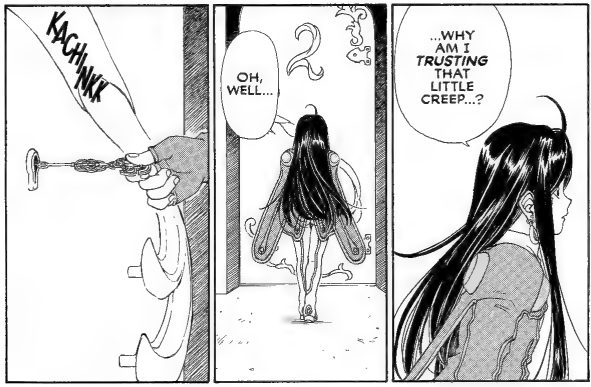

STUNNING!
100


YES!
VERY GOOD.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR THE REST OF YOU GUYS.

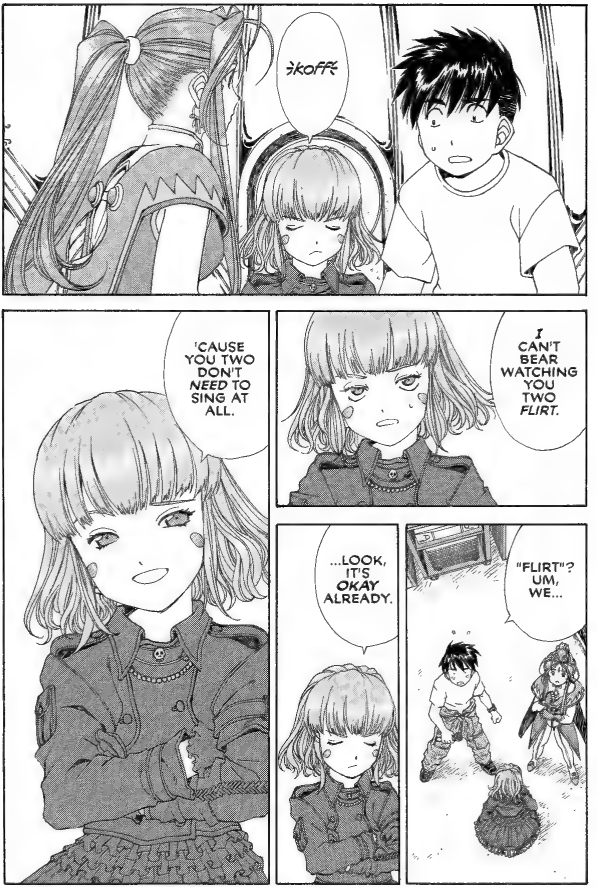
HEY! HEY!
I'M NEXT!
GO RIGHT AHEAD.


STUNNING!
100


SEE YOU ALL SOON! ❤

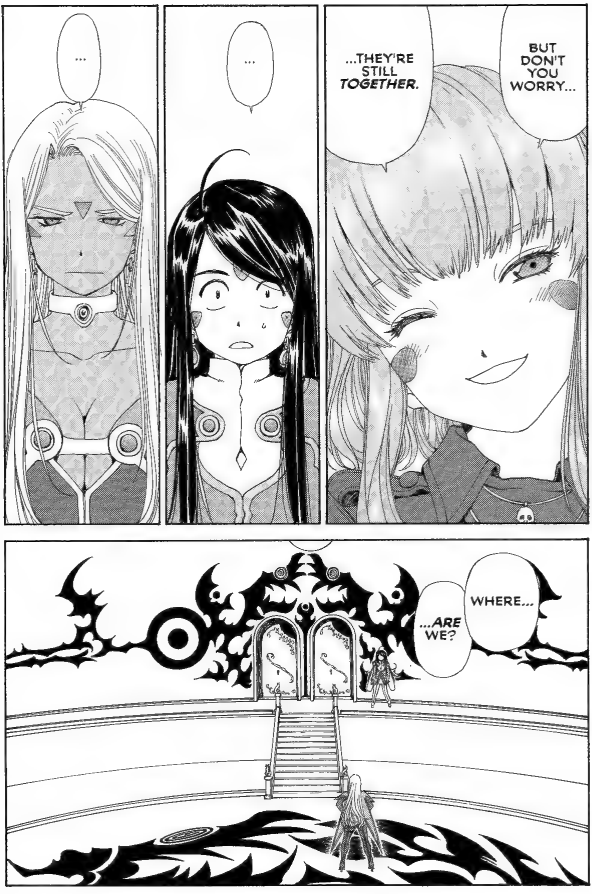

KACHINK
OH, WELL...
...WHY AM I *TRUSTING* THAT LITTLE CREEP...?

NO, KEIICHI. YOU'RE NEXT.
RIGHT, THEN. YOU SHOULD GO NEXT, BELL.
SLAMM
2
...YOU'LL HAVE TO BE THE LAST ONE!
HUH? BUT THEN...
...BUT I CAN'T BEAR TO LEAVE YOU ALONE, KEIICHI.
YES...


:koff:
I CAN'T BEAR WATCHING YOU TWO FLIRT.
'CAUSE YOU TWO DON'T NEED TO SING AT ALL.
"FLIRT"? UM, WE...
...LOOK, IT'S OKAY ALREADY.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I SAID.
...YOU'RE NOT LETTING US OUT?!
WHAT ...?!
HELP YOUR-SELF.
HERE.
EH...?

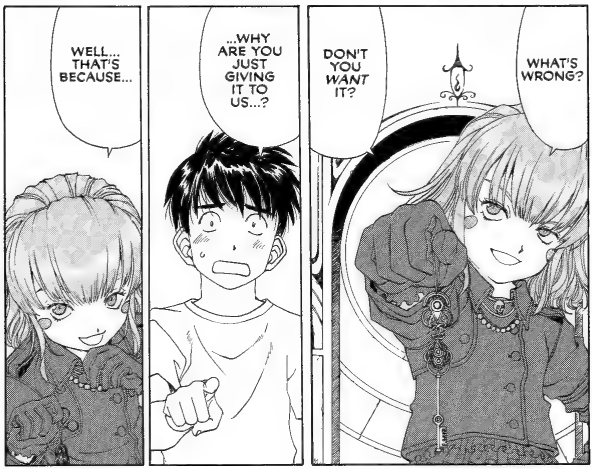
ENOUGH WITH THE YELLING, OKAY, MORTAL?
BUT THAT'S ONLY ONE KEY!!
ONE AND TWO GO SOME-WHERE ELSE.
YUP.
WAIT...
...DOORS "THREE" AND "FOUR" ...?
THEY USE THE SAME KEY. YOU CAN BOTH GO TOGETHER.
DOORS THREE AND FOUR ARE THE EXCEPTION.


...
...
...THEY'RE STILL TOGETHER.
BUT DON'T YOU WORRY...
WHERE...
...ARE WE?

YOU LIED TO US!!
I SAID THERE WERE KEYS. I SAID THEY COULD GO...
...I NEVER SAID THEY COULD GO TO THE EXIT.
...
BUT THESE DOORS DO LEAD TO THE EXIT...
...AND YOU CAN LEAVE ANY TIME YOU LIKE.

CHAPTER 270

The Cursed Portal


WELL... THAT'S BECAUSE...
...WHY ARE YOU JUST GIVING IT TO US...?
DON'T YOU *WANT* IT?
WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT?!
...I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU.
THAT CAN'T BE...
...CAN IT?
CAN'T BE...
SO PLEASE TAKE IT, OKAY...?

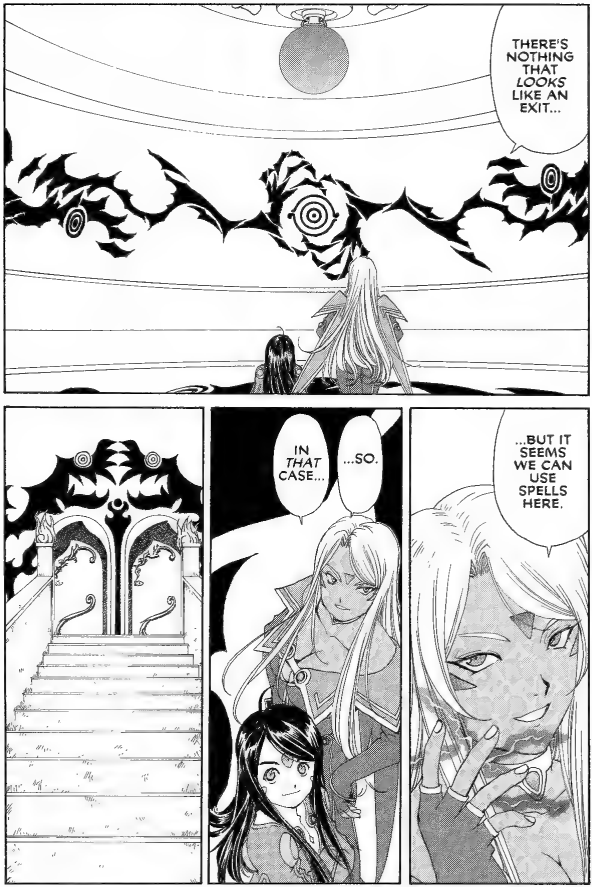
LET'S GO, KEIICHI.
eh?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
NEVER MIND.
EVEN IF SHE WAS SPEAKING THE *TRUTH*...
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE MISLED BY SUCH WORDS.

...MORE THAN *ME*, CAN THERE...?
...THERE CAN'T BE ANYONE WHO LOVES YOU...

TO BE ENCHANTED BY HER SMILE LIKE THIS, TIME AND AGAIN...
RIGHT!
HEY, KIDS. HATE TO INTERRUPT WHEN YOU LOOK SO *HAPPY*, BUT...
...DON'T YOU WANT TO HELP THE OTHERS?
OH, THOSE TWO...
...ONE *REALLY* LUCKY GUY.
...MAYBE I'M JUST...

...ARE GOING TO FREE *THEM-SELVES.*
HUH. WHATCHA THINK *THAT* IS?
NO IDEA...

...BUT THAT WASN'T WHAT I WAS WONDERING.
....!!
FIRST WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE...
NO TIME FOR THE OLD ROUTINE, IS THERE?
...
NO.
WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP ME?!
WHY'D YOU WALK RIGHT INTO THIS?!
'CAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS THE EXIT!!
YOU DASHED IN BEFORE I COULD!!


THERE'S NOTHING THAT *LOOKS* LIKE AN EXIT...
IN *THAT* CASE...
...SO.
...BUT IT SEEMS WE CAN USE SPELLS HERE.

...WHERE'D YOU GET THE BOMB?
OH, JUST YANKED IT OFF THAT MECHA.
...WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO BACK TO WHERE WE CAME FROM.

...BEFORE YOU TURN THAT--
IT'S JUST...
OH, NO. THE KEY WILL OPEN THE DOOR JUST FINE.
IS IT GONNA EXPLODE OR SOME-THING ...?
...WHAT?

IF YOU OPEN IT— I DIE.
THERE'S A CURSE ON IT.
HUH?!
!!

YOU'RE LYING!!
WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT OF A CURSE THAT KILLS YOURSELF...?!
PLEASE... WAIT.
I SEE...
...THE POINT.

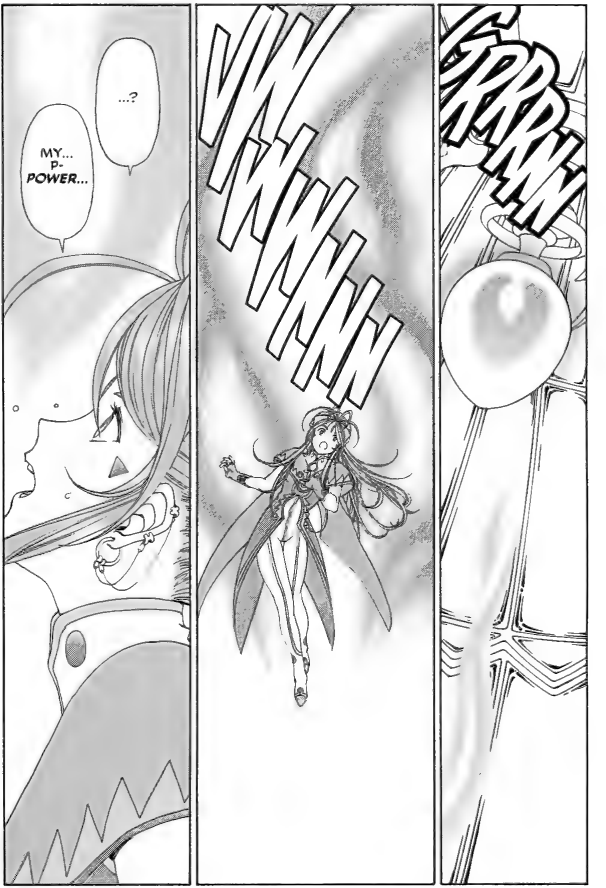
OF COURSE YOU DO. YOU *CAN'T* OPEN IT.
BECAUSE IF YOU OPEN IT...
...IT MEANS YOU ***KILLED*** ME.
AND BELL-DANDY WILL ***NEVER*** ALLOW THAT.
...
...
AND THAT'S NOT ALL.

IF I OPEN IT...
...AND YOU DIE...
...THEN RIGHT AFTER THAT...
...MY *DOUBLET* AMONG THE GODS WILL DIE, TOO.

...THERE'S NO WAY OUT.
AND SO, FOR YOU TWO...

THERE'S SOME-THING STRANGE...
...SHE'S ACTING DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.
IT'S ALMOST AS IF... SHE NEVER PLANNED TO LET THE TWO OF *US* LEAVE.
HEY.
EXPLAIN SOME-THING TO ME...
...WHAT DO *YOU* GET OUT OF HOLDING US HERE?
WAIT... AND SEE.

KLANG
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
R
RRMM
RMMM
AND NOW...
...SWITCH ON!!


...?
MY... P- POWER...
VWWWWWW
GRRRR

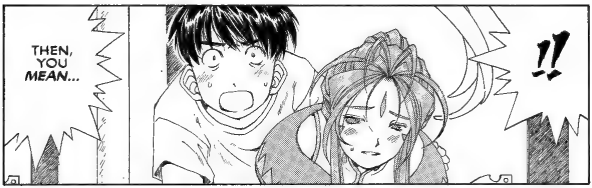
BELL-DANDY!!
I'M LOSING... MY POWER...
THAT'S WHAT I GET OUT OF HOLDING YOU HERE.
YOUR POWER... ALL OF IT.

...THEY'RE TRYING SO HARD, BUT THEY'RE JUST MAKING THINGS WORSE.
I TAKE PITY ON YOUR SISTERS...
...THAT DEVICE CAN DRAIN A GODDESS DRY.
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
THEY'RE THE ONES POWERING THIS DEVICE.
3
2
1

LIGHTNING DESCENT!

SPAKKSPRKK
ONE BLAST COMING *RIGHT UP!*
WHERE'D YOU HIDE THAT? NEVER MIND... BLAST IT DOWN.
SPAKKSPRKK
IT'S NO GOOD... IT SUCKS THE ENERGY RIGHT UP.
RIGHT, THEN. *I'LL* GIVE IT A TRY...

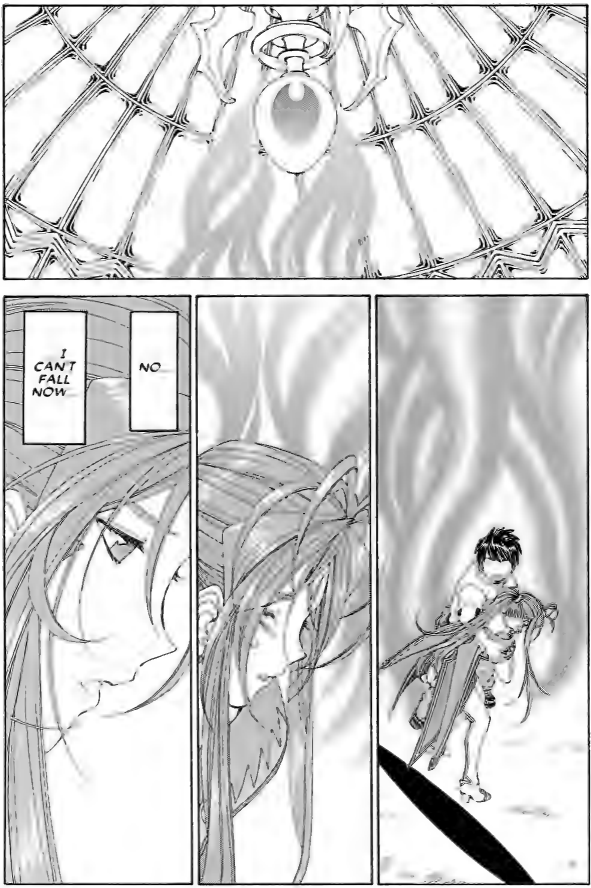
BAROOM
WHOOSH


THEN, YOU MEAN...
!!

THE HARDER THEY STRUGGLE TO ESCAPE...
...THE FASTER BELLDANDY'S POWER DRAINS AWAY.

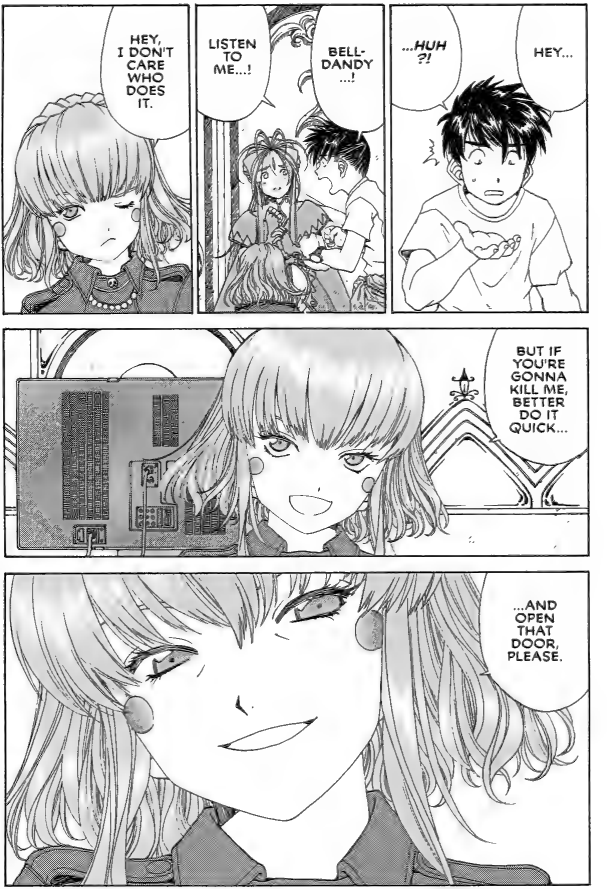
CHAPTER 271

Power Drain


I CAN'T FALL NOW
NO

IF I FALL...
BELL-DANDY!!
WUMP
...LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!
NO!!

KEIICHI, YOU MEAN... OPEN THE DOOR, RIGHT?
OF *COURSE* !!
OTHER-WISE, YOU'LL DIE...!
BUT THAT MEANS YOU'LL KILL *HER*...
SO IF WE'RE GOING TO OPEN IT...
...*I'LL* OPEN IT.

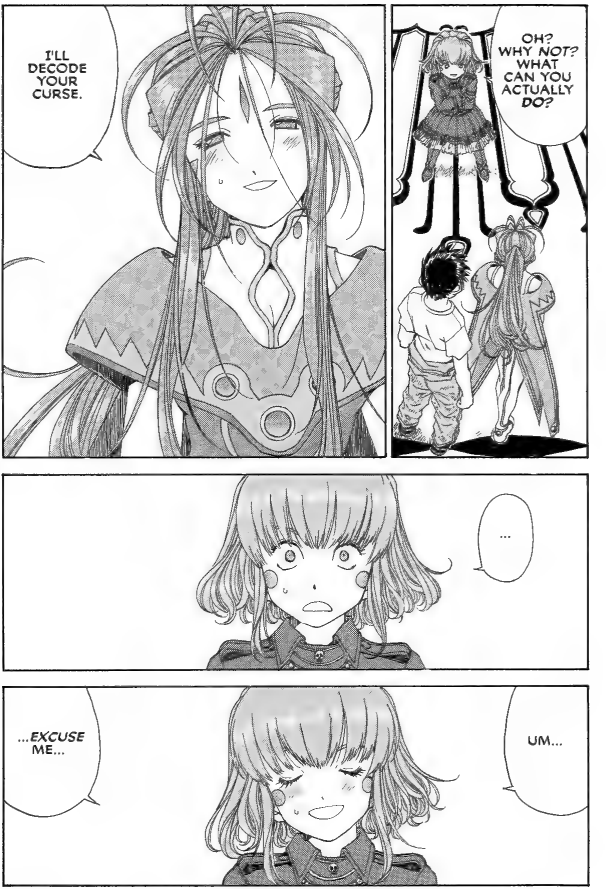

HEY, I DON'T CARE WHO DOES IT.
LISTEN TO ME...!
BELL-DANDY ...!
...HUH ?!
HEY...
BUT IF YOU'RE GONNA KILL ME, BETTER DO IT QUICK...
...AND OPEN THAT DOOR, PLEASE.

...GIVE ME THE KEY *NOW!!*
NO *WAY!!* BELL-DANDY...
ALTHOUGH IT'S *ALSO* FINE IF YOU CHOOSE TO STAY AND DIE.
I ABSO-LUTELY...
KEIICHI.
...CANNOT GIVE YOU THE KEY.

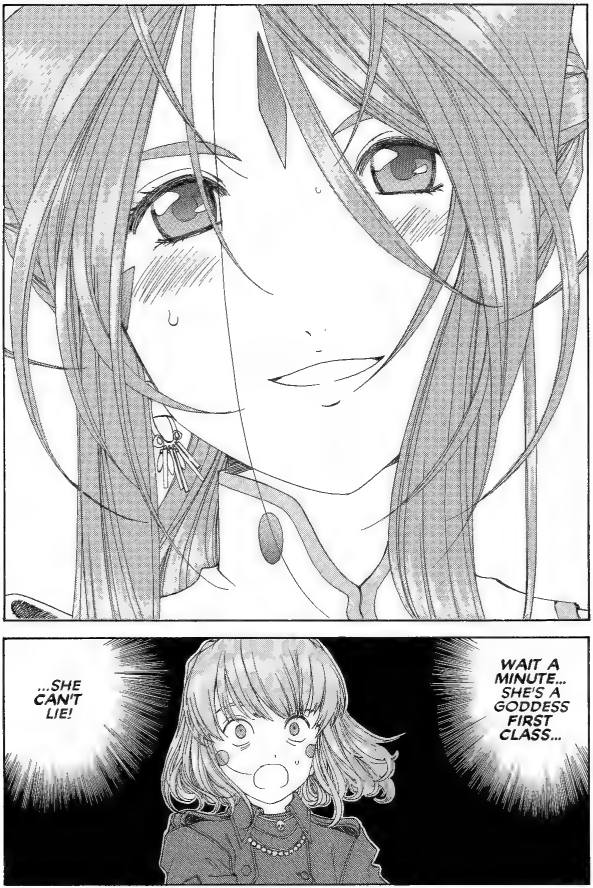
slip
EHHHH?!
B-BELL-DANDY ...?!
YOU KNOW, THAT MOVE WAS PRETTY VULGAR...
...FOR A GODDESS.
...SINCE YOU DON'T SEEM TO KNOW, I'LL TELL YOU.

I WILL DO *ANYTHING*...
...TO PROTECT MY KEIICHI.

AND ONE MORE THING...
HA, HA.
!!
...I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP YET.


I'LL DECODE YOUR CURSE.
OH? WHY *NOT*? WHAT CAN YOU ACTUALLY *DO*?
...
UM...
...*EXCUSE* ME...

AND NOW, WITH JUST MINUTES LEFT TO LIVE, YOU TELL ME YOU'LL *DECODE* IT...?
...BUT I SPENT *SIXTY-FOUR* DAYS WRITING IT, *SIXTEEN* DAYS CHANTING IT.
DON'T LIE JUST FOR THE SAKE OF...
THERE'S NO *WAY* YOU CAN DO IT!
HA! HA! HAW HAW!

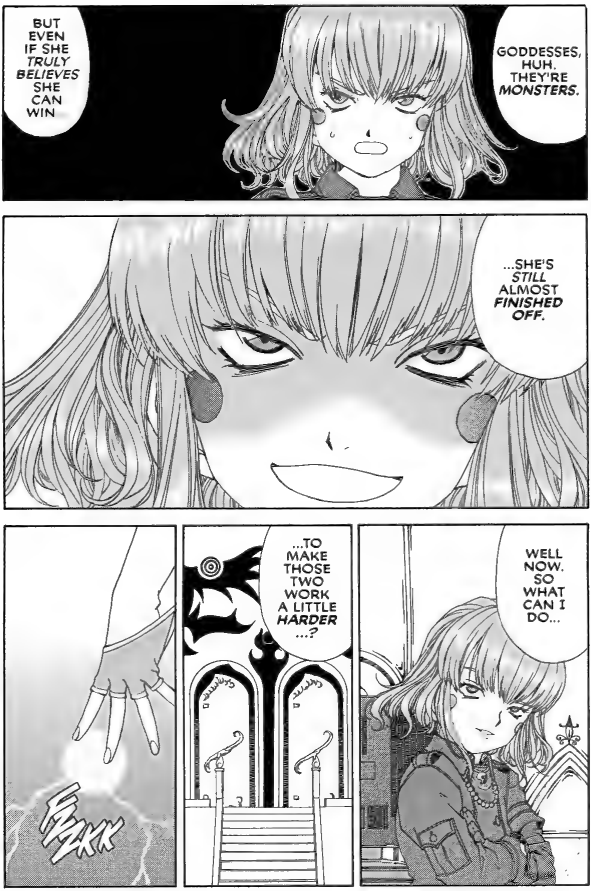

...SHE CAN'T LIE!
WAIT A MINUTE... SHE'S A GODDESS FIRST CLASS...

I'VE FINISHED ANALYZING...
...YOUR SPELL PROGRAM.
MULTIPLY SOUND RESOLUTION BY ONE THOUSAND.
COMPILE ANTI-CURSE PROGRAM.
SET CHANT DURATION AT SIXTEEN MINUTES...
...BEGIN DECODING.

THIS CAN'T BE...!!
...

...HOW CAN SHE IN HER STATE...?
SHE'S REALLY RUNNING AN ANTI-CURSE PROGRAM...
...EVEN A DEFENSE FIELD!
...SHE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MANAGE A HIGH-SPEED CHANT...
I ALREADY DRAINED SO MUCH OF HER POWER...
I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED IT...

...TO BE A GODDESS FIRST CLASS.
...BUT THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS...


BUT EVEN IF SHE *TRULY BELIEVES* SHE CAN WIN
GODDESSES, HUH. THEY'RE *MONSTERS.*
...SHE'S *STILL* ALMOST ***FINISHED OFF.***
...TO MAKE THOSE TWO WORK A LITTLE ***HARDER*** ...?
WELL NOW. SO WHAT CAN I DO...
FZZAKK

...THAT THING JUST ABSORBS OUR ATTACKS ...?
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN....
gasp
Shrrmm

HUH?
...IS SOME-THING WRONG?
WHAT'S UP?

PERSON-
ALLY,
I'D
ADVISE
GETTING
UP...
...RIGHT
NOW.
?
WHY
...?

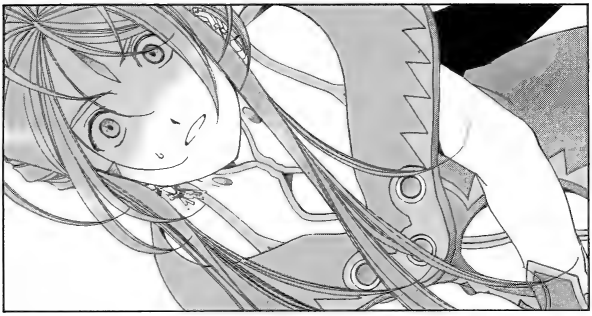
...IT'S NO GOOD! WE CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM IT IN HERE!
WE'VE GOT TO ATTACK...!
YOU'RE RIGHT !!

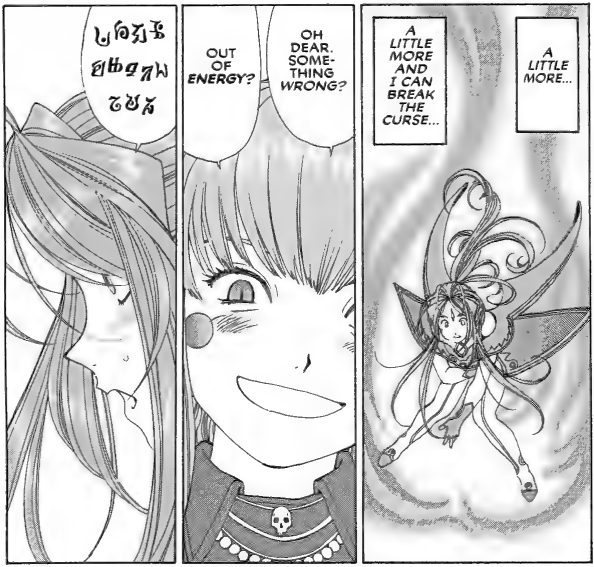
OFFENSE IS THE BEST DEFENSE!
KNNN

IT'S DRAIN-ING YOU FASTER NOW...
...YOU'LL NEVER FINISH THAT CHANT.
WWWWWWWW

CHAPTER 272

What I Can do for You




A LITTLE MORE...
A LITTLE MORE AND I CAN BREAK THE CURSE...
OH DEAR. SOMETHING WRONG?
OUT OF ENERGY?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!! LET IT GO!
HE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW... IT IS IMPOSSIBLE.

BELL-DANDY!
FINALLY GAVE IT A REST, DID SHE...?

EH?
WHAT A RELIEF. AFTER YOU GUYS PUT ALL THAT WORK INTO RUNNING THROUGH OUR LITTLE OBSTACLE COURSE...
...I WAS AFRAID IT WAS GOING TO BE FOR NAUGHT.
ARE YOU REALLY THAT DUMB? WHY DO YOU *THINK* WE SENT YOU THROUGH THAT SERIES OF ROOMS...?
GOD AND DEMON SPELLS ARE DIFFERENT IN NATURE.
AS DEMONS, WE COULDN'T ABSORB MUCH POWER FROM HER *DIRECTLY*...

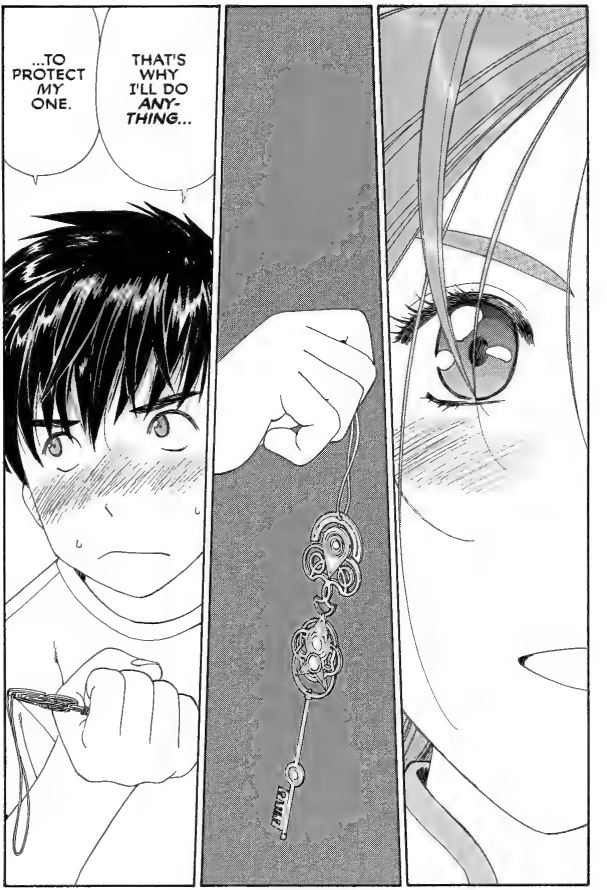
...GRADUALLY CHARGED THE MAIN ABSORPTION UNIT *HERE*.
...SO WE BUILT A CIRCUIT THAT *COULD*, EACH OF THOSE ROOMS YOU PASSED THROUGH...
...BUT IT'S *YOUR* TRAP, TOO...!
THIS TRAP YOU'VE CONSTRUCTED FOR HER...
...I STILL DON'T *UNDERSTAND* ...!
WAIT...
YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING ALL ALONG... TO ACHIEVE YOUR OWN *DESTRUCTION!*

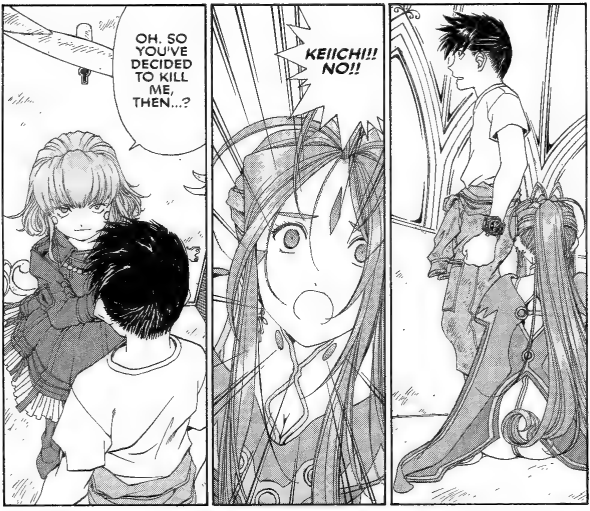
MM-HMM.
BUT THAT'S WHY IT'S SUCH A GREAT *TRAP.*
I MEAN, EITHER SHE STAYS HERE AND DIES *PHYSICALLY...*
...OR EITHER OF YOU UNLOCK THIS DOOR... *KILLING* ME...
...AND SHE DIES IN HEART... IN SPIRIT.
WELL, WHICH DEATH FOR HER DO YOU CHOOSE...?
...HURRY UP AND DECIDE.

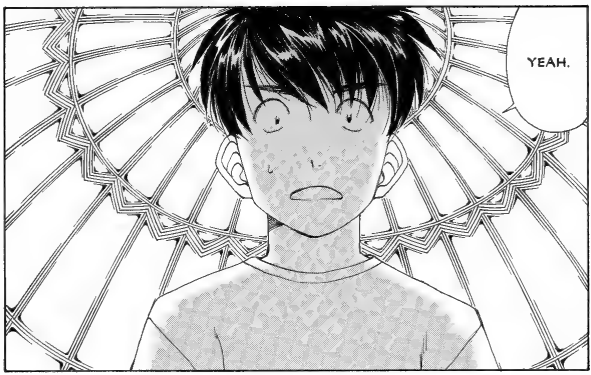
I'LL OPEN THE DOOR!!
ENOUGH !!
NO... YOU MUSTN'T...
I...
NO. NEVER.
GIVE ME THE KEY! NOW!

IF TH-THAT'S THE PRICE, THEN I...
...I DON'T WANT TO MAKE SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO ME KILL.
I FEEL JUST THE SAME.
...YES?
BUT, BELL-DANDY...

AND SO...
!!


...TO PROTECT MY ONE.
THAT'S WHY I'LL DO ANY-THING...


OH. SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO KILL ME, THEN...?
KEIICHI!!! NO!!

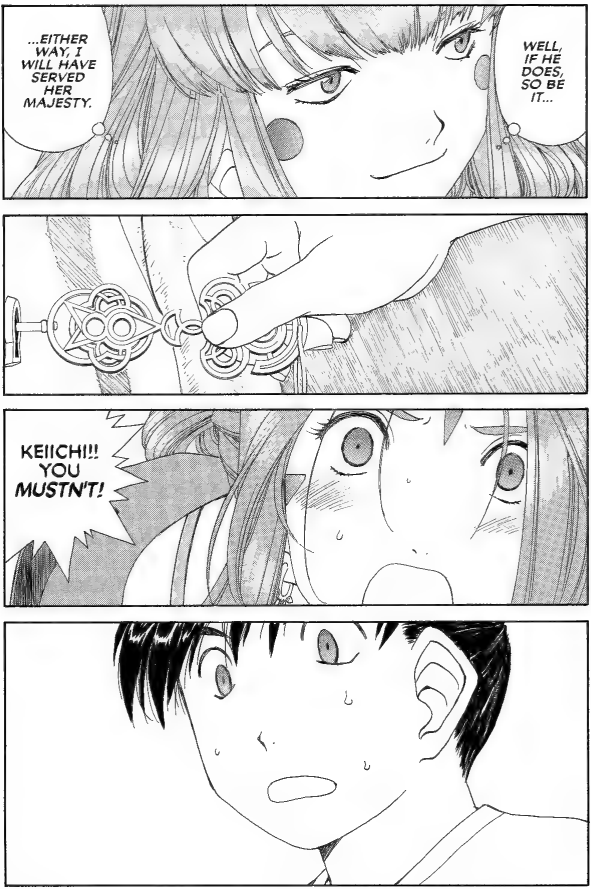

YEAH.

HMM...
YOU CAN'T DO IT... CAN YOU...?
KEI... ICHI...
...RRRIGHT.

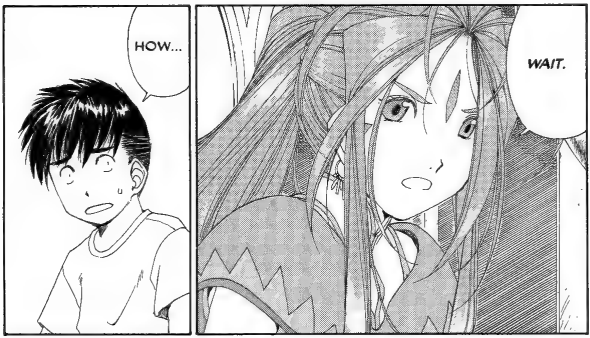
WHAT
?!
SEE THESE? *THESE* ARE THE EYES OF A KILLER...
NOT *YOURS*.
KE!
CHI

AW, I'M SORRY...
...THAT WAS AWFUL MEAN OF ME.
WELL, OKAY...
...GO RIGHT AHEAD...
...YOU COWARD.
!!
BELL-DANDY'S GOING TO DIE IF SHE STAYS IN HERE.
THAT'S HER REAL GOAL.

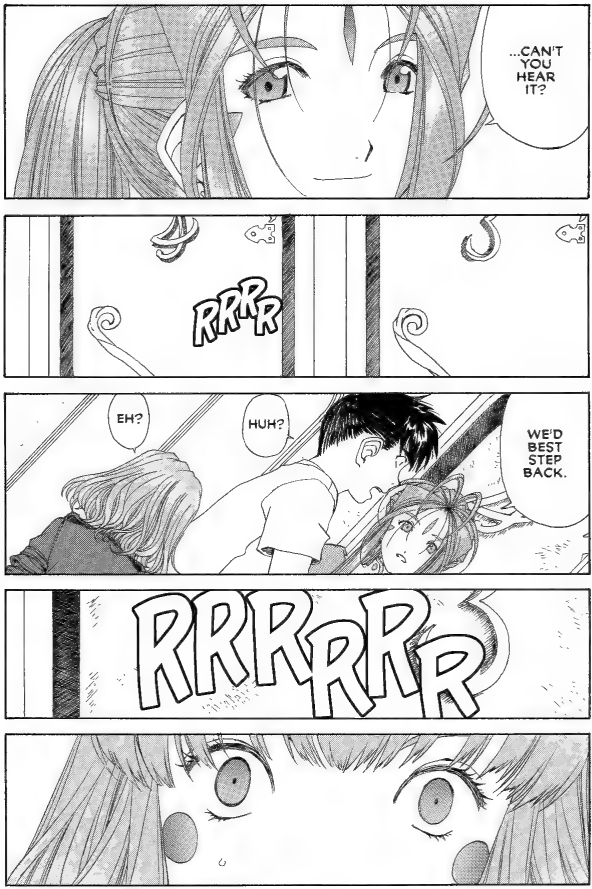
IF I OPEN IT, CAN BELL-DANDY LIVE WITH...
...THE CONSE-QUENCES ...?
ALL I KNOW IS...
...SHE WILL LIVE.
OH.
...


...EITHER WAY, I WILL HAVE SERVED HER MAJESTY.
WELL, IF HE DOES, SO BE IT...
KEIICHI!! YOU MUSTN'T!

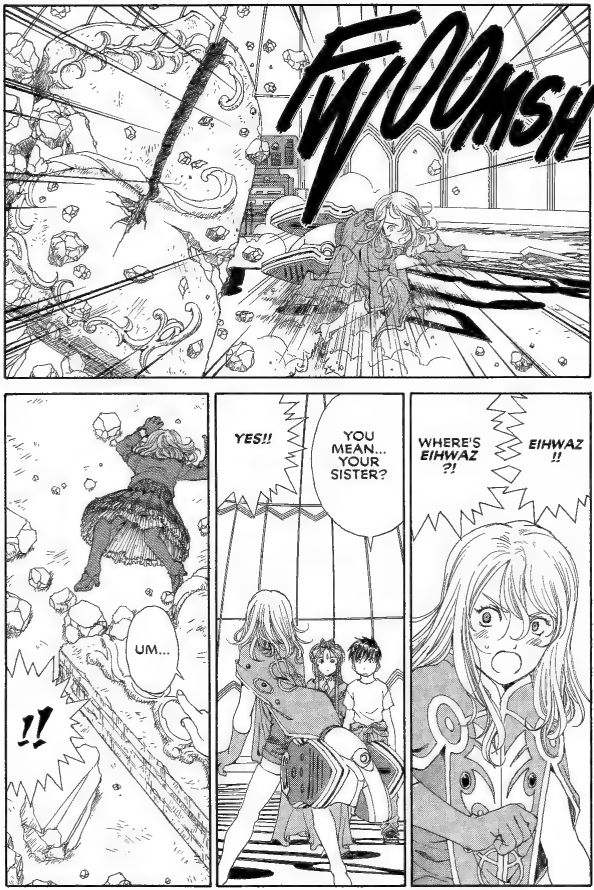
...TO TURN IT?
IS IT REALLY OKAY...
...OR NOT?
IS THERE A RIGHT THING TO DO...
...?


HOW...
WAIT.

YOU DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO *STAND!!*
HOW ...?
I DON'T KNOW HOW EITHER, BUT...
...THERE'S ONE THING I *DO* KNOW.
SOME-THING WE ALL FORGOT.
WHAT ...?
WHAT'S THAT...?


...CAN'T YOU HEAR IT?
RRRR
EH?
HUH?
WE'D BEST STEP BACK.
RRRRRR

SKRRCH


FWOOMSH
WHERE'S EIHWAZ ?!
EIHWAZ !!
YOU MEAN... YOUR SISTER?
YES!!
UM...
!!

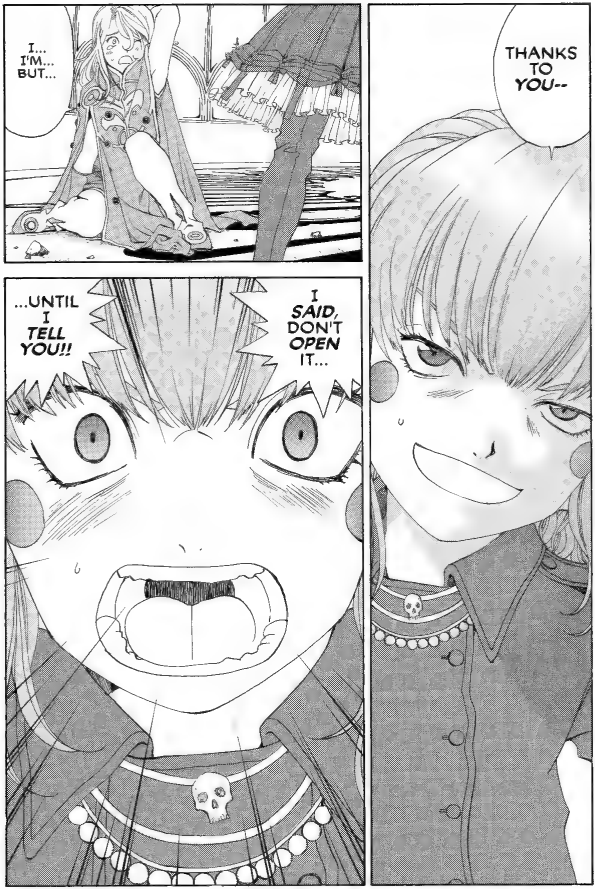
CHAPTER 273

My One and Only

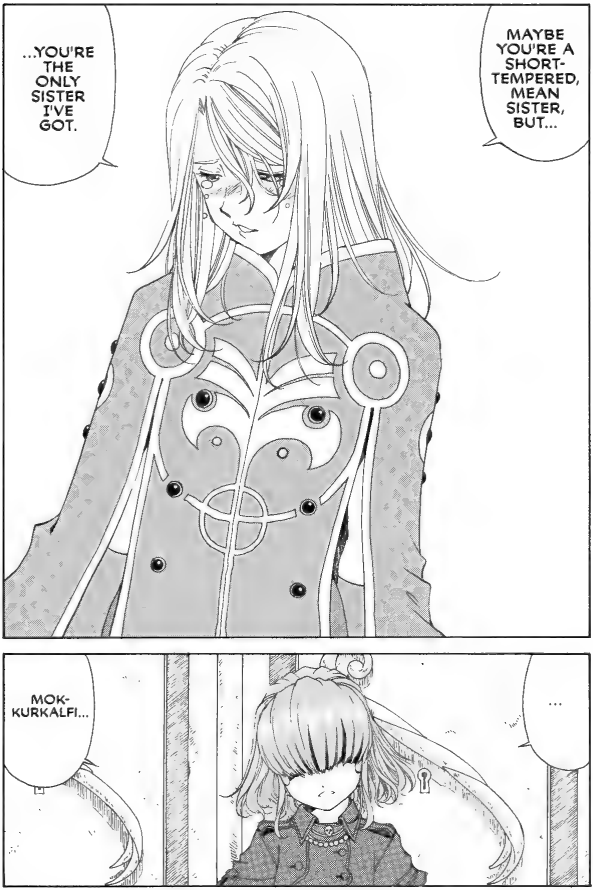
EIHWAZ !!
I'M... TOO LATE?
AH...

...IF THE DOOR WAS SHATTERED FROM *OUTSIDE!*
THE CURSE WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN EFFECT...
I STILL HAVEN'T...
HUH?
WHY COULDN'T YOU *WAIT...?*
...WHY COULDN'T YOU WAIT ONE MORE SECOND!!

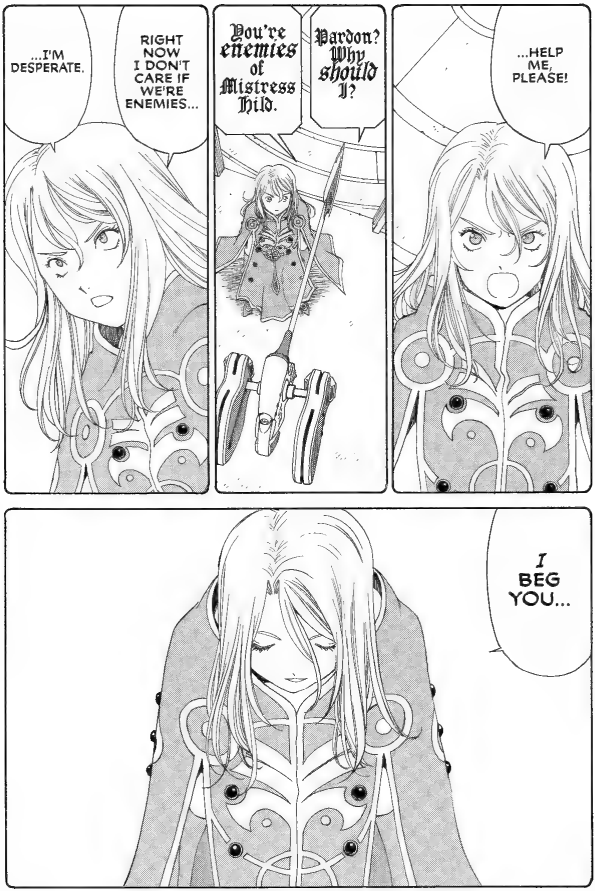
SHAK
I'M NOT DEAD, DUMMY!
OH, YES, I'M ALIVE.
EIHWAZ... YOU'RE ALIVE...
!!

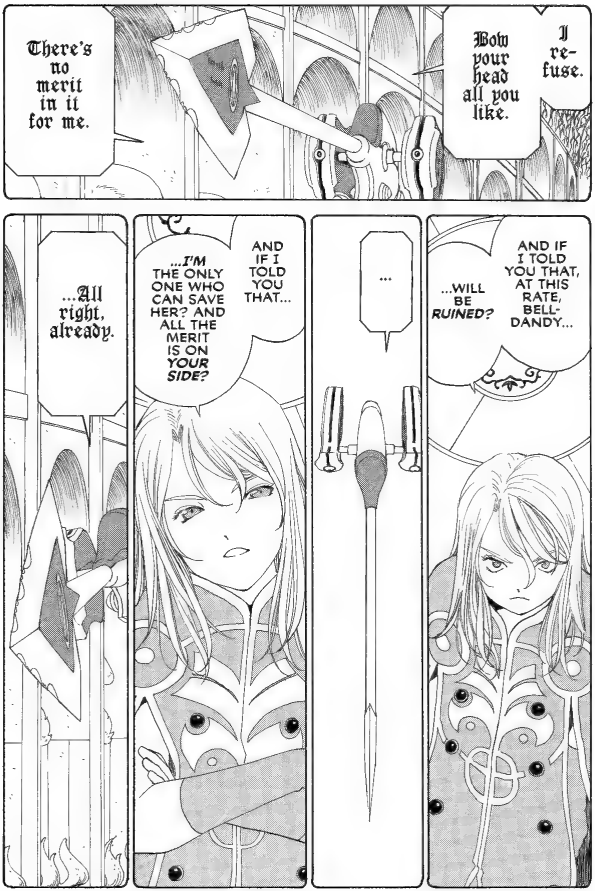

I... I'M... BUT...
THANKS TO YOU--
I SAID, DON'T OPEN IT...
...UNTIL I TELL YOU!!

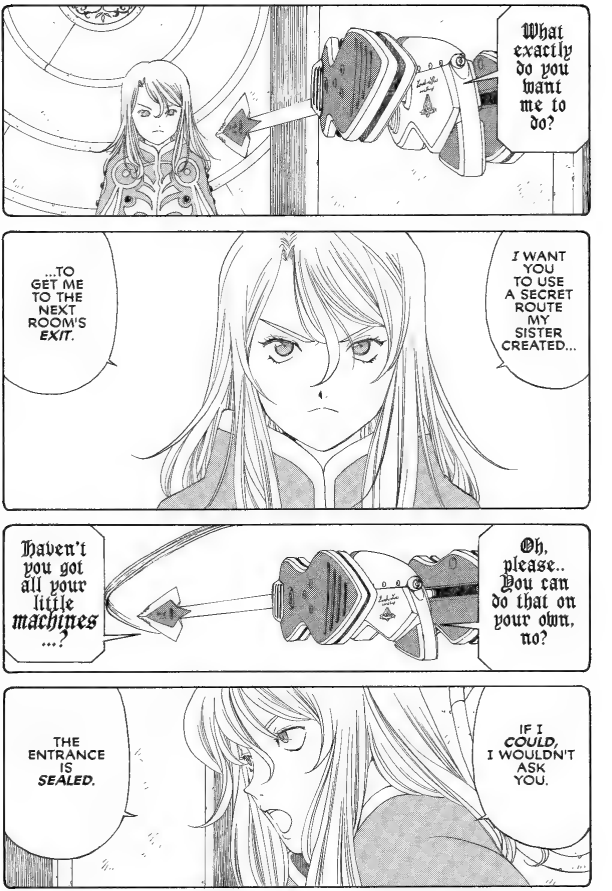
...FOR MAKING ME LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT?!
NOW, THANKS TO YOU, THE PLAN'S GONE HAYWIRE.
HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO MAKE AMENDS...
SO WHATCHA GONNA DO ABOUT IT?
EVEN IF I DID...
...I WANTED YOU TO LIVE.

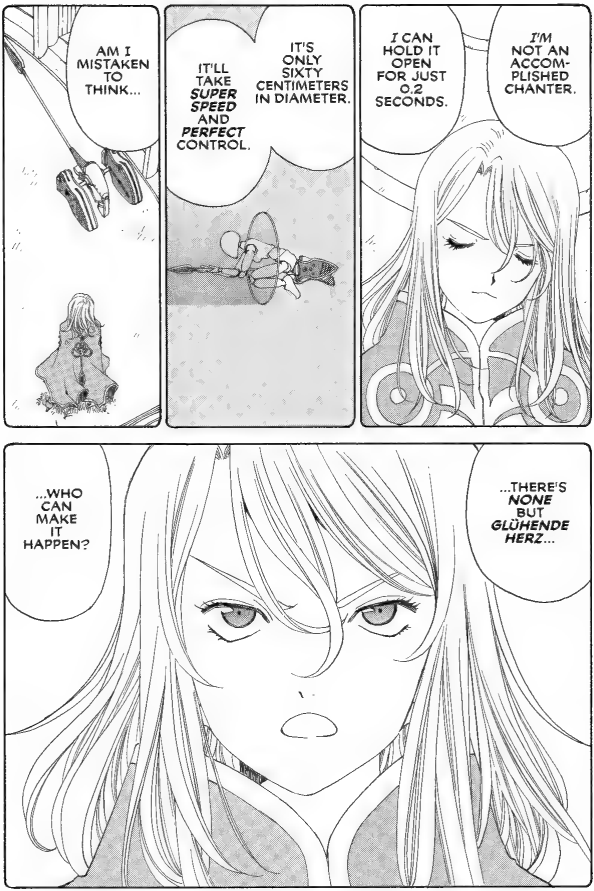

..YOU'RE THE ONLY SISTER I'VE GOT.
MAYBE YOU'RE A SHORT-TEMPERED, MEAN SISTER, BUT...
MOK-KURKALFI...
...

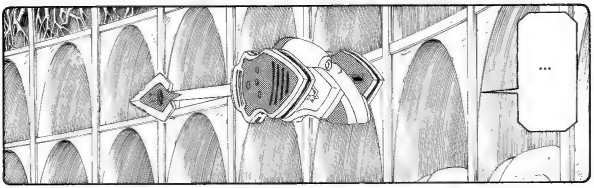
SPRAK
...WHO HERE IS MEAN...?!
I was trying to get in when she came running up...
Hmph. How fortunate I was to be in time.
YOU WERE POINTING IN YOUR MIND, RIGHT?!

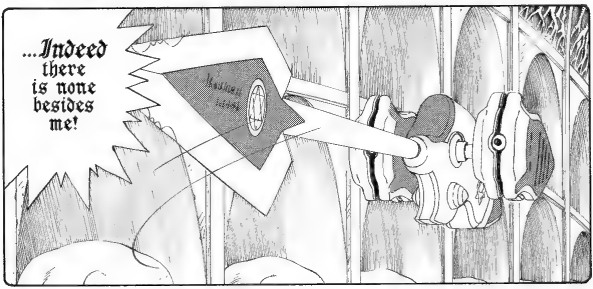

...I'M DESPERATE.
RIGHT NOW I DON'T CARE IF WE'RE ENEMIES...
You're enemies of Mistress Hild.
Pardon? Why should I?
...HELP ME, PLEASE!
I BEG YOU...

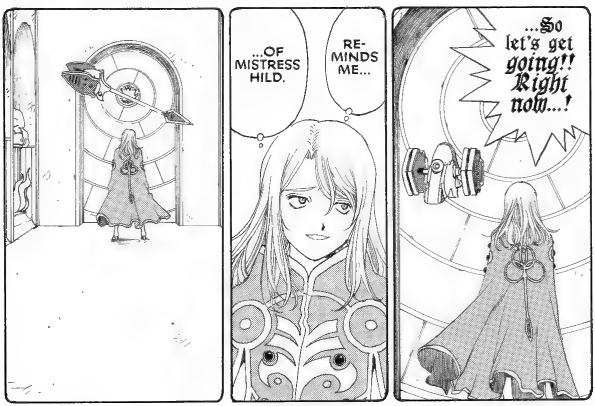

There's no merit in it for me.
Bow your head all you like.
I refuse.
...All right, already.
...I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE HER? AND ALL THE MERIT IS ON YOUR SIDE?
AND IF I TOLD YOU THAT...
...
...WILL BE RUINED?
AND IF I TOLD YOU THAT, AT THIS RATE, BELL-DANDY...


What exactly do you want me to do?
I WANT YOU TO USE A SECRET ROUTE MY SISTER CREATED...
...TO GET ME TO THE NEXT ROOM'S EXIT.
Oh, please.. You can do that on your own, no?
Haven't you got all your little machines ...?
IF I COULD, I WOULDN'T ASK YOU.
THE ENTRANCE IS SEALED.


AM I MISTAKEN TO THINK...
IT'LL TAKE *SUPER SPEED* AND *PERFECT* CONTROL.
IT'S ONLY SIXTY CENTIMETERS IN DIAMETER.
I CAN HOLD IT OPEN FOR JUST 0.2 SECONDS.
I'M NOT AN ACCOMPLISHED CHANTER.
...WHO CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN?
...THERE'S *NONE* BUT *GLÜHENDE HERZ*...


...


...Indeed there is none besides me!


...OF MISTRESS HILD.
RE-MINDS ME...
...So let's get going!! Right now...!

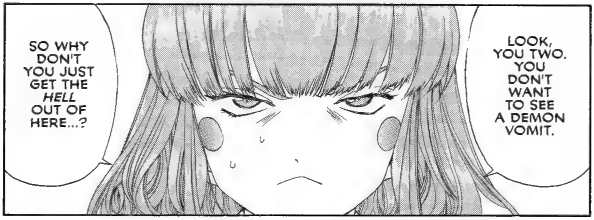
Hermit's Gate... Fool's Key...
A Moment Clutched in a Sage's Fingers...
Walls Pierced by a Dark Sword's Tip.
Pay Ye With Flames of Anger, with the Joy of Pain...
...Hear Ye Only the Chasm of Despair, and a Starless Sky...

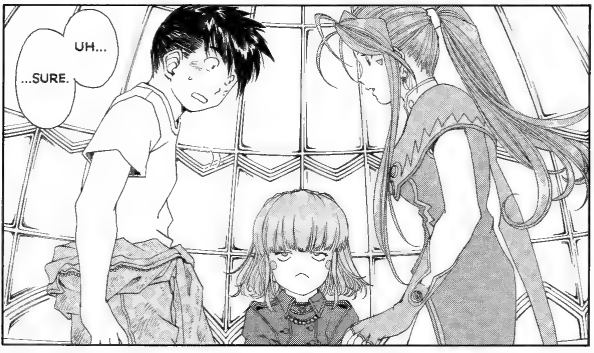
Hold tight!!
GLÜHENDE HERZ! NOW!!

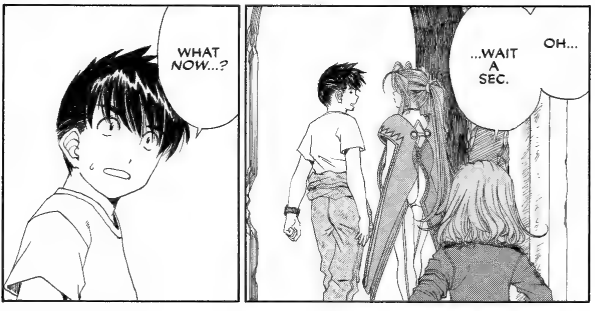
...And that's my story.
WOW...
MY FINGER GOT HOT, AND...
Of that I know not.
WAS *THAT* YOU, TOO?
...AND BELL-DANDY'S POWER COMING BACK ...?

I see! It acted as an amulet.
KEIICHI'S RING--
OH...!
Yes.
AN AMULET? LIKE A CHARM?
OUR AFFECTION FOR OTHERS BECOMES THAT POWER...
AN AMULET HARBORS THE POWER TO PROTECT.

THAT POWER WAS *YOUR* POWER, DEAR KEIICHI.
...THE STRONGER THE AFFECTION, THE STRONGER THE POWER.


SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET THE *HELL* OUT OF HERE...?
LOOK, YOU TWO. YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE A DEMON VOMIT.


UH...
...SURE.

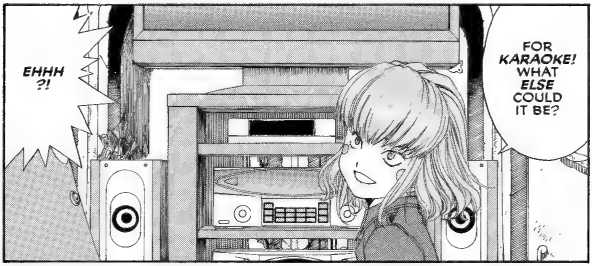

WHAT *NOW*...?
OH...
...WAIT A SEC.

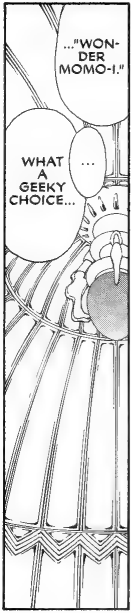
IF MOKKUR-KALFI HADN'T ARRIVED...
...*WOULD* YOU HAVE TURNED THE KEY?
I WONDER...
BUT MY *GUESS* IS...

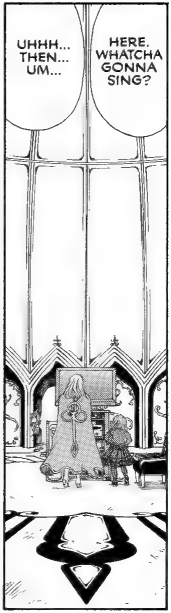
...I PROBABLY COULDN'T HAVE OPENED IT.
....
CHICKEN THROUGH AND THROUGH.

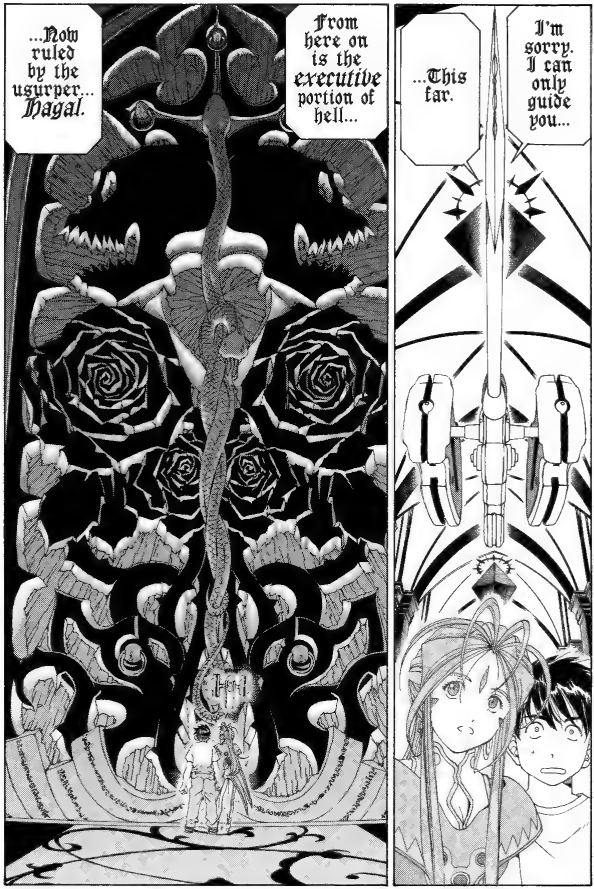
YOU CAN'T BASE A PLAN ON UNCERTAIN ASSUMP-TIONS.
BELIEVE? ARE YOU KID-DING?
...DID YOU BELIEVE I'D GET HERE IN TIME?
UMM...
YUP.
SO. PRETTY MUCH ACCORDING TO PLAN.
...I THINK I *WAS* CONFIDENT THAT CHICKENHEART WOULD STAND BY HIS CHICKEN-NESS.
BUT YOU KNOW...

....
...I TRUSTED HIM.
SO IN A SENSE YOU COULD SAY...
OUCH!
SHWAKK
HUH?
STICK AROUND A BIT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "HUH"...?


EHHH ?!
FOR KARAOKE! WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?


...
WHAT A GEEKY CHOICE...
..."WONDER MOMO-I."


UHHH... THEN... UM...
HERE. WHATCHA GONNA SING?


I'm sorry. I can only guide you...
...This far.
From here on is the executive portion of hell...
...Now ruled by the usurper... Magal.

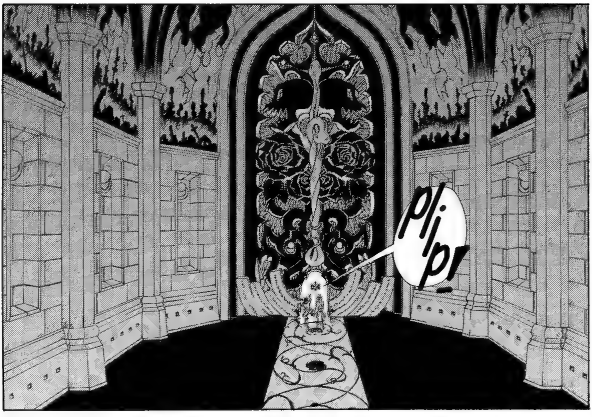
AH! MY GODDESS

URD&SKULD

CHAPTER 274

A Meeting Where You Must Not Look

HOW DOES A DOOR THIS HUGE...
...EVEN OPEN...?
GRRRNN
UM...
...IT IS OPENING.
GGRNN
GGRNN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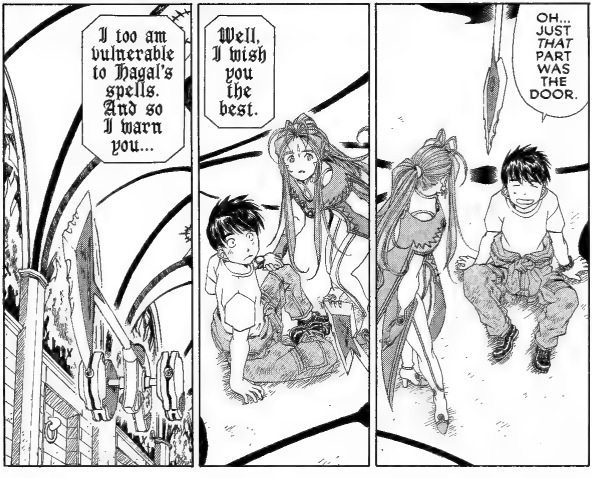
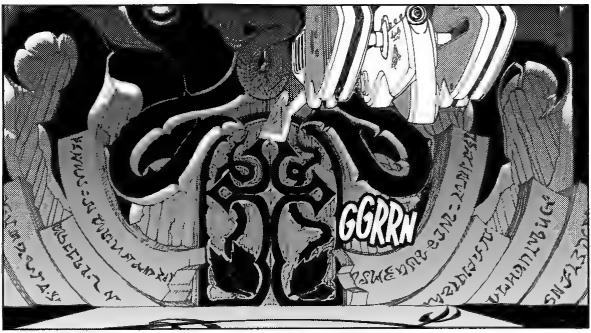
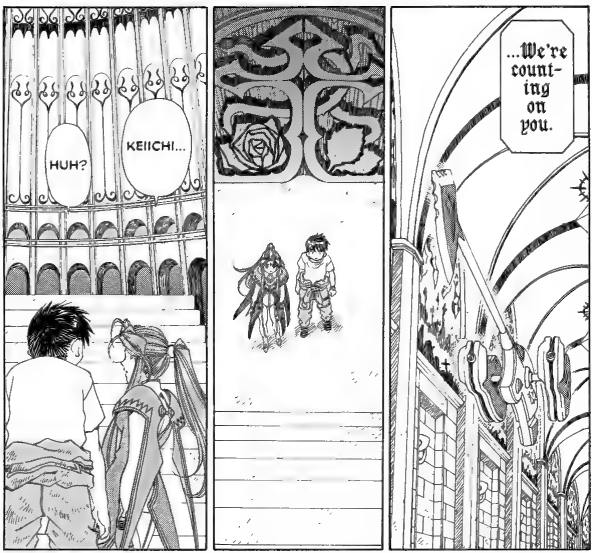

I too am vulnerable to Hagal's spells. And so I warn you...
Well, I wish you the best.
OH... JUST THAT PART WAS THE DOOR.

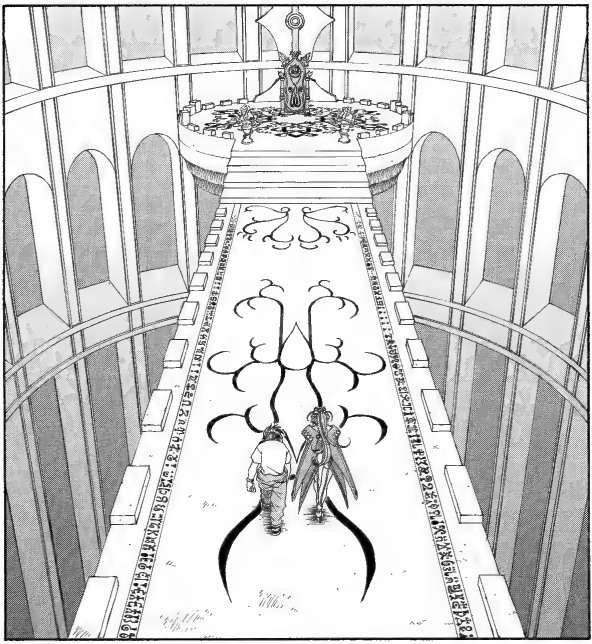
I KNOW.
...NEVER LOOK INTO HER EYES, RIGHT...?
AND WE'VE GOT A STRONG WEAPON OF OUR OWN.
SHALL WE GO, THEN?

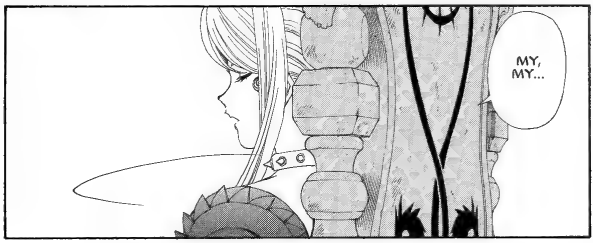
...But the future of the demon world is in your hands.
It's awkward saying this...
...LEAVE IT TO US!
AND THIS MAY NOT BE AN APPROPRIATE ANSWER, BUT...


GGRRN

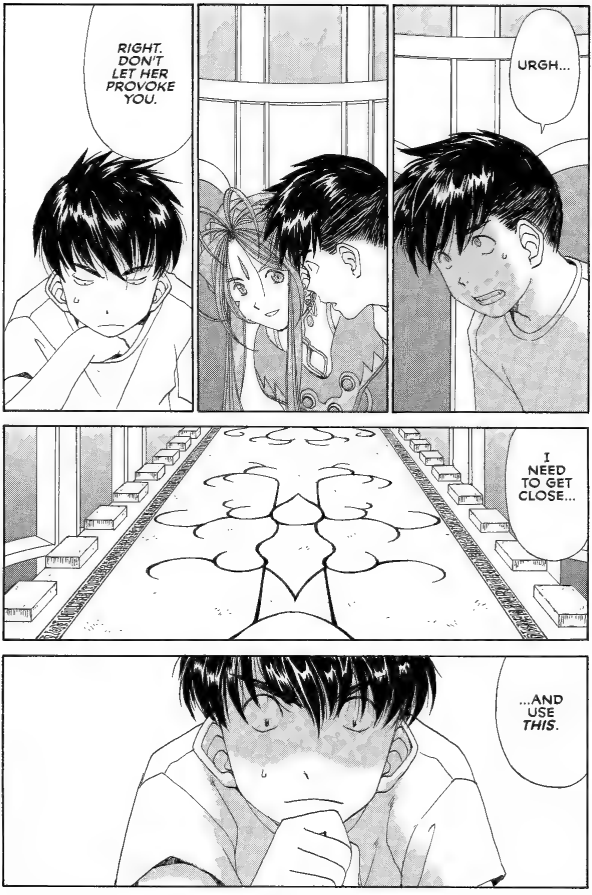

HUH?
KEIICHI...
...We're counting on you.

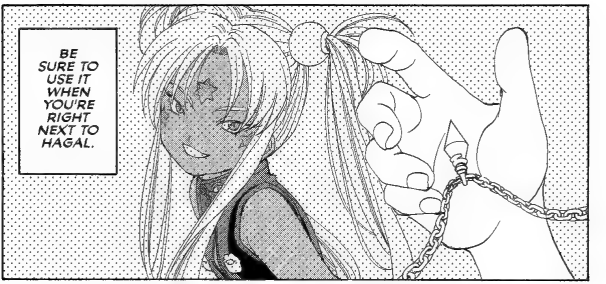
...LET'S FINISH YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY WHEN WE GET HOME.
YEAH.
ABSO-LUTELY.



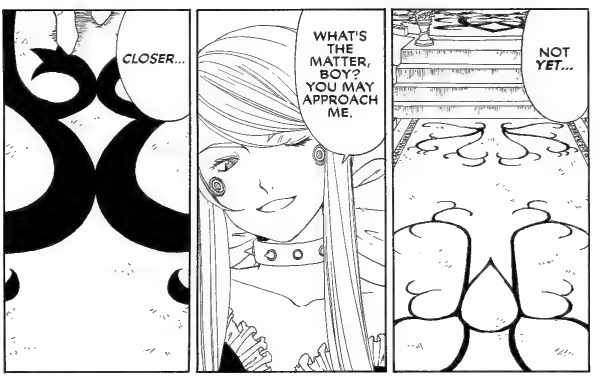

MY,
MY...

...HOW CHARMING OF YOU TO ENTER...
...WITH HEADS BOWED TO ME.


RIGHT. DON'T LET HER PROVOKE YOU.
URGH...
I NEED TO GET CLOSE...
...AND USE THIS.


BE SURE TO USE IT WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT NEXT TO HAGAL.

CLOSER...


CLOSER...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BOY? YOU MAY APPROACH ME.
NOT YET...

MY FACE IS UP HERE, YOU KNOW...
...STARING AT MY LEGS...
...SUCH A NAUGHTY YOUNG MAN.
ONE...
...MORE STEP...

...NOW!!
TAKE THIS!!

...HUH?
SHISH
SHISH

...WHAT ...?
UM...
OH...

...I SLIPPED THEM OFF BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU ADORED MY LEGS.

...WHAA ?!
KEIICHI!
FINALLY... YOU LOOKED MY WAY.

SO NICE TO MEET YOU... KEIICHI.
THIS IS...
...THIS IS HAGAL ?!
GET AWAY FROM HIM...!

OH? STILL HAVE A LITTLE ENERGY, DO YOU?
WELL, WHY DON'T WE JUST FINISH *TAKING* IT.
EH?

...WHY?

SURELY YOU DIDN'T THINK WE HAD ONLY ONE ABSORBER... DID YOU?
OH, DEAR. WHAT'S WRONG?
BELL-DANDY!

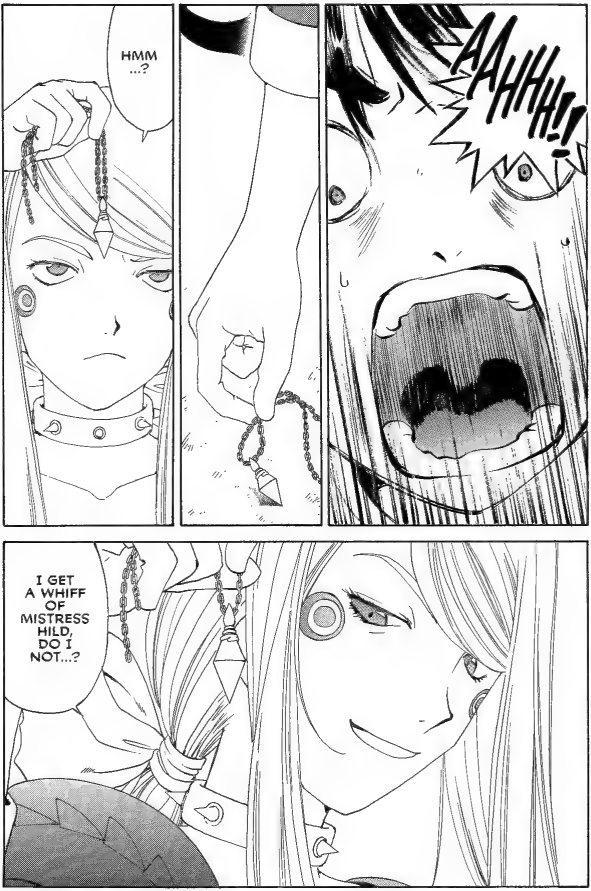
MY HAND!
EH?!
LET GO OF WHAT ...?
NOW !!
LET GO OF ME!!
MY...

...!!
tingg

CHAPTER 275

The Time of Loss

AH...
MY... HANDS ...!!


HMM ...?
AAHHH!!
I GET A WHIFF OF MISTRESS HILD, DO I NOT...?

urk
...I SEE.
OF COURSE, I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WOULD COME IN HERE UNARMED, BUT...
...THIS IS WHAT YOU BRING...?
MIS-TRESS HILD...
...YOU KNOW I CAN'T HAVE YOU GETTING IN OUR WAY.
Don't...!
No!
Snap
Pop

AHHH!
AH!
SHWOOP

I KNOW YOU WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE TO BRING THAT HERE.
SO PLEASE *DO* FORGIVE ME. ❤
NOW THEN...
...I WONDER IF WE'RE READY YET?
...WELL, *SHE* LOOKS JUST ABOUT DONE, DOESN'T SHE...?

...WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO BELLDANDY ...?
WAIT.
...WE DIDN'T DRAIN HER POWER TO *ELIMINATE* HER.
BUT AS FOR YOUR QUESTION.
MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE PARALYZED WITH SHOCK.
MY, WHAT A *SURPRISE!*

...WELL, THEN...
...WHY?
...?
WE DID IT SO SHE COULD BECOME ONE OF US.
HILD TRIED TO...
EH? SHE WON'T BECOME ONE OF YOU!
...?!

AND I SAW HER MISTAKE. IT WAS AS IF SHE TRIED POURING OIL... INTO A CUP ALREADY FULL OF PURE WATER.
OH, YES. HILD TRIED... AND *FAILED*.
...THE GODDESS BELL-DANDY...
AND SO, OUR MOST TROUBLE-SOME FOE IN HEAVEN...
THEN *WE* CAN FILL IT... WITH *WHATEVER WE LIKE*.
YOU *SEE* IT, DON'T YOU? THE ANSWER IS TO *EMPTY* THE CUP FIRST.
...!!

...BECOMES THE NEW ACE OF DEMON-KIND.

AND WITH HER HELP... WE SHALL BUILD OUR *DEMON UTOPIA.*

BUT THERE'S NO WAY...
YOU THINK SO...?
...I'LL LET YOU!!
BUT TELL ME... WHAT *ARE* YOU GOING TO DO?
SO *DEFIANT!*

I'M G-GETTING OUT OF HERE...
...WITH BELL-DANDY.
OH... OKAY.
GIVE THAT A TRY.
I DON'T NEED YOUR *PERMISSION*--
...?!
YOU SEEM TO BE... HOW SHALL I PUT IT...?
...*LOSING* THINGS.

...!!
MY LEGS...
MY LEGS...

YOU CAN'T LIFT A *FINGER* TO STOP ME. OR A *TOE*, FOR THAT MATTER...

I... WI... LL...
ALTHOUGH I AM IMPRESSED YOU CAN STILL USE YOUR ANGEL.
YOU PEOPLE JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN YOU'RE BEAT, DO YOU...?
...KEI... ICHI...
...PRO... TECT...
WSSHHH

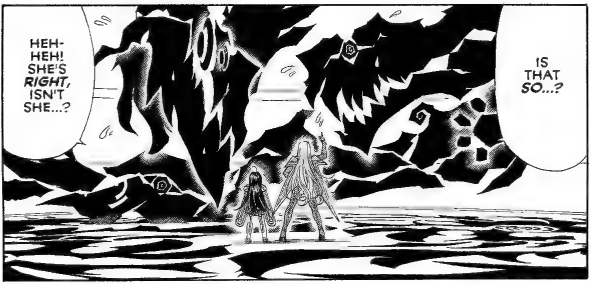
WISHH
...!!
...!!
KWWWN

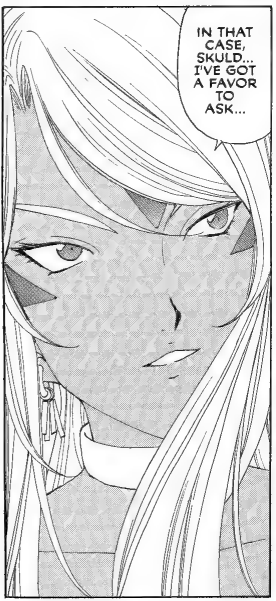
HOLY BELL!!
AHH!!
klunk
I HAVE SOME NEWS FOR YOUR EARS ONLY.

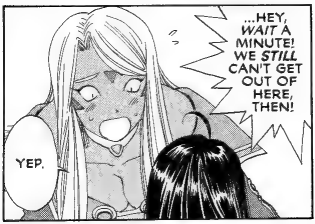
...YOU HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO YOU.
PLEASE GIVE UP...
...

EXPLODING LIGHTNING STRIKE--!!
WHY ...?
WAIT ...!

...I'VE BEEN STUDYING THEIR ATTACK PATTERN...
...AND I DOUBT THESE GUYS CAN *ACTUALLY* HARM US.
tk tk tch
NO, I THINK THEIR *REAL* PURPOSE...
...IS TO *TRICK* US INTO GIVING THEM ALL *OUR* ATTACK POWER.
tk tk tch
tk tk tch
OH... SO WE DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF THEM...?


HEH-HEH! SHE'S *RIGHT*, ISN'T SHE...?
IS THAT *SO*...?


IN THAT CASE, SKULD... I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK...


...HEY, *WAIT* A MINUTE! WE *STILL* CAN'T GET OUT OF HERE, THEN!
YEP.

SO IF WE ATTACK, OUR POW-ERS JUST GET SUCKED AWAY... AND WE'LL MAKE NO PROG-RESS.
UH-HUH.

...

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Welcome back once again! Well, I have to say that the story is getting pretty intense, but come to think of it, this is not the first time the goddesses and Keiichi have faced the very direst situations—if you go back to vol. 6, Keiichi was possessed by the Lord of Terror, threatening to destroy the structure of the universe, and of course, in vol. 17, he faced down Velsper in his original incarnation to prevent time from stopping permanently.

The fact that the adventures in *Oh My Goddess!* are often fun or lighthearted sometimes makes me forget one of its ongoing ideas—that the love between a mortal and a goddess can have a complicated and dangerous effect on the realms of existence. Don't you think that this is indeed a theme in the traditions of mythology . . . ?

So let's close out until next time with a hopeful note:

I recently read vol. 41 of *Oh My Goddess!*, and let me thank you guys for continuing to put this book out. I was recently struck with sudden fast-forming cataracts and was unable to read for a number of months. The first thing I picked up after my surgery was this book and it relieved a great deal of stress.

However, it left me with a question . . .Do you know if Mr. Fujishima has an ending planned out for this book? Not that I ever want it to end (especially since I think the ending might be rather tragic) but I would hate for something to happen and not find out the end of the story! I'm mostly thinking of Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time* books—he left someone else to finish them of course, but I don't think Fujishima's art could be replaced. Also I still think the little book formats don't do his art justice. You folks wouldn't happen to have a digital version available, would you?

Thanks,
Christopher Sheldon

P.S. I thought I would attach this little piece of fan art of Urd. It doesn't really look the way I thought it did, now that I can see again. Oh well. Maybe I'll just do another.

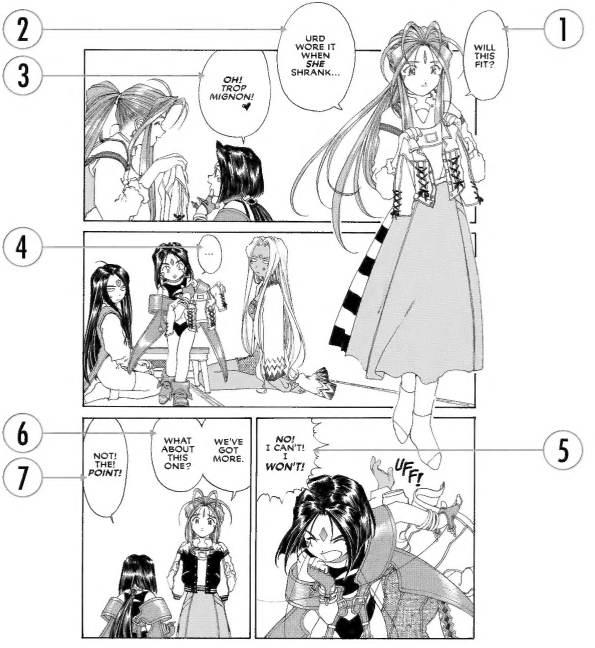
I don't know whether Mr. Fujishima has an ending planned out for *Oh My Goddess!*, although his remarks at the end of vol. 40 would seem to suggest if he does, it isn't coming soon (and that's good, right? ^_^). I do think it would be great if we could offer a digital version of *OMG!* as we currently do with several other Dark Horse manga titles (check out our site, Digital.DarkHorse.com).

As I write this in August 2012, it's the eighteenth birthday of *Oh My Goddess!* here at Dark Horse (the longest-running manga series in English, we like to boast—because it's true); we published the first chapter in August of 1994 in comic book format—as you may know, *OMG!* was a monthly comic book later collected as graphic novels until 2005, when it went GN only. All the more appropriate to give the fan art this time to the elder sister, then. She looks pretty good—you must have been drawing with your inner sight! We'll see you all again in *Oh My Goddess!* Volume 44!

—CGH

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 43

THE LITTLE DEMON WHO HAS USHERED

Keiichi and the goddesses to confront each door warden of Hell reveals herself to be the next door warden they must face. But not only does the chamber she guard have four separate exits, the rules of escape only permit Belldandy to leave on a condition she would never agree to . . . taking another's life! And she soon learns that the trap she's in is even crueler than that . . .

Winner of the thirty-third Kodansha Manga Award, *Oh My Goddess!* is the longest-running manga title in English!

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